

**REMARKS**

This communication is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action dated September 21, 2004 (Paper No./Mail Date 0904). By this communication, claims 9-16 have been amended.

Claim 9 has been amended to recite forming a groove along a boundary between the substrate and a portion of the optical lens. Support for the changes to claim 9 can be found variously throughout the specification, for example, at page 29 lines 11-13. No new matter has been added.

Claims 10-15 have been amended to address formal matters. No new matter has been added.

Claim 16 has been amended to recite forming a groove along a boundary between the substrate and a portion of each of the shaped optical lenses. Support for the changes to claim 16 can be found variously throughout the specification, for example, at page 29, lines 11-13. No new matter has been added.

Claims 9-16 are pending where claims 9 and 16 are independent.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 9-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by *Eda et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,728,509. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 9 recites a method of producing an optical lens, comprising the steps of forming, on a substrate made of an optical material, a mask layer corresponding to a shape of an optical lens having a pattern whose width in a first direction is different from a width thereof in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction; deforming the mask layer by heat treatment so that a surface area of the mask layer may be reduced; and removing the mask layer and the substrate simultaneously to transfer the shape of the mask layer to the substrate to form the shape of the optical lens; forming a groove along a boundary between the substrate and a portion of the optical lens.

Claim 16 recites a method of producing an optical lens array, comprising the steps of forming, on a substrate made of an optical material, a plurality of mask layer portions corresponding to shapes of a plurality of optical lenses each having a pattern whose width in a first direction is different from a width thereof in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction; deforming the mask layer portions by heat treatment so that a surface area of each of

the mask layer portions may be reduced; and removing the mask layer portions and the substrate simultaneously to transfer the shapes of the mask layer portions to the substrate to form the shapes of the optical lenses; forming a groove along a boundary between the substrate and a portion of each of the shaped optical lenses.

In sum, each of claims 9 and 16 recites a method for producing an optical lens or optical lens array, wherein a groove is formed along a boundary between the substrate and a portion of the optical lens (claim 9) or optical lens array (claim 16).

*Eda* discloses a method of manufacturing an optical device where a convex arcuate face 12 is formed on a glass substrate 40. This formation is achieved by first placing a photoresist film 42 on the glass substrate 40 and heating the glass substrate 40 in a clean oven. The glass substrate 40 is then dry etched to remove the photoresist film 42. The etching is performed such that a convex arcuate face 12 having a spherical or elliptical shape is formed.

*Eda*, however, fails to disclose, teach, or suggest at least forming a groove along a boundary between the substrate and a portion of the optical lens. As a result, claims 9 and 16 are not anticipated.

To properly anticipate a claim, the document must disclose, explicitly or implicitly, each and every feature recited in the claim. See Verdegall Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of Calif., 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). *Eda* fails to disclose, teach, or suggest every element recited in independent claims 9 and 16, therefore these claims are not anticipated by *Eda*. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 9 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn, and these claims be allowed.

Claims 10-15 depend from claim 9. By virtue of this dependency, Applicant submits that claims 10-15 are allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 9. In addition, Applicant submits that claims 10-15 are further distinguished over *Eda* by the additional elements recited therein, and particularly with respect to each claimed combination. Applicant respectfully requests, therefore, that the rejection of claims 10-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn, and these claims be allowed.

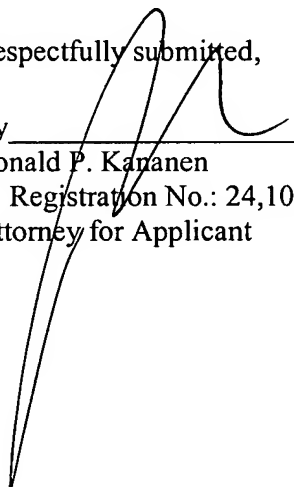
**Conclusion**

Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 9-16 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application. In the event the Examiner has any comments or suggestions for placing the application in even better form, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-2324/DIV from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: December 21, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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